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04-185

August 23, 2004

CALTRANS POSTPONES HESPERIA COMMUNITY MEETING

San Bernardino – The California Department of Transportation (Department) announced the Hesperia community meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2004 will be postponed. The meeting was planned to announce details of a pavement rehabilitation project on the I-15 at Devore.

Caltrans is evaluating the proposed staging and schedule of the project as a result of public comments received at community meetings last week. The primary area of concern is the possible delay to high-desert commuters who need to get to work on time in the morning and back home to their families at night.

As a result of these concerns, the Department is exploring options to increase capacity through the construction zone as well as modification of the hours and number of closures. Details of these options must be carefully analyzed prior to making any modifications to the contract. Our analysis will be completed September 1, 2004 and will be made available to the public.

Pavement repairs cannot be completed on a night closure schedule under our current contract. Implementation of a night closure option would require the termination of our existing contract. Payment of \$2.5 million to the contractor for costs incurred to date and re-bidding of the project. I-15 pavement in Devore is in rapidly deteriorating condition and must be repaired as soon as possible to prevent failure. Contract termination is not an option the Department can consider due to the associated costs and delay. The rehabilitation, under either the current or modified proposal, is still scheduled to occur between September 13 and November 18, 2004.

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